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# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1956





Lunesdale Rural District Council

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# LUNESDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## *Medical Officer of Health:*

R. W. FARQUHAR, B.SC.(Agr.), M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

## *Public Health Inspector:*

A. WARBURTON.





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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1956.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Lunesdale Rural District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Lunesdale Rural District during 1956.

The Registrar General's estimate of the home population at mid-year 1956 was 7,260 being 20 more than for the previous year. Of this total approximately 1,100 or just over 15% are of pensionable age or older.

There were 105 live births during the year, equivalent to a crude birth rate of 14.5 per 1,000 population, the lowest rate recorded in recent years. The adjusted birth rate (*i.e.*, adjusted to allow for differences in sex and age distribution in the population when compared with other areas) was 14.9, which may be compared with the crude rate of 15.7 for England and Wales and the adjusted rate of 15.69 for the Administrative County.

The total number of deaths assigned to the district was 101, giving a crude death rate of 13.9 and an adjusted rate of 14.5 per 1,000 population, compared with the national rate of 11.7. The comparable rate for the Administrative County was 13.74. As will be seen from the table on page 15, the greatest toll of life is taken by degenerative diseases common to the second half of life. In order of importance these were heart and circulatory diseases (42), vascular lesions of the nervous system (22) and cancer in its various forms (15).

There were no maternal deaths. Two infants died before reaching their first birthday, giving an infant mortality rate of 19 per 1,000 live births, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 23.8 per 1,000.

In 1956 there were 88 cases of infectious disease, an increase of 23 over the previous year—most of which was accounted for by an increased prevalence of measles towards the end of the year. Ample

facilities are available locally for immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and for vaccination against smallpox and tuberculosis, and fuller use should be made of these valuable preventive measures. Towards the end of 1956 vaccination against poliomyelitis was offered to children born between 1947-54, but the initial response to this offer was poor.

The basis of all public health is still environmental hygiene. In Section D your Public Health Inspector has reported fully on the various environmental services which play such an important part in maintaining and improving living and working conditions in the community. I would draw your particular attention to the progress made during 1956 in relation to the following:—improvements to water supplies at Hornby, Cloughton and Farleton; new sewerage and sewage disposal systems at Nether Kellet and Over Kellet (both completed) and at Halton, Caton and Brookhouse; and the expansion and re-organisation of refuse collection and disposal.

Further schemes are in hand to provide modern sewage disposal systems at Hornby, Wray and Whittington, but much more remains to be done. Of 2,285 inhabited houses in Lunesdale, 1,902 are supplied with pure water from public mains and only 1,511 have the benefits of water closets connected to public sewers. Following the construction of modern sewerage and sewage disposal systems at Nether and Over Kellet, schemes have been prepared for improving sanitary accommodation and washing facilities at the schools in these villages. Similar improvements are badly required at most of the rural schools throughout the District but it is not possible in some cases to provide these until adequate piped water supplies and sewers have been installed. Improved means of transport and communication have already lessened the isolation of small rural communities and the provision of houses with all modern conveniences would do still more to halt the drift from the land and to enhance the attractiveness of many of the smaller villages in the lovely valley of the Lune.

Thirty-seven new houses were built during 1956, of which only 4 were built by the Council. Since 1946 the Council have built a total of 290 houses and flats and it appears that it will be necessary for the next 4 or 5 years to allocate any new council houses for the re-housing of tenants from slum clearance areas. Improvement schemes qualifying for substantial grants were completed in respect of 18 properties during the year. This scheme of financial assistance, since it came into operation in 1950, has resulted in the preservation and modernisation of 47 houses, some of which were built over 100 years ago.

On the whole, the year may be described as one of reasonable progress.

In conclusion I wish to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the support and encouragement given to the officers of the Health Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. W. FARQUHAR,

Medical Officer of Health.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA





## GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA of the District (Acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76,267
POPULATION (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,351
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate mid/56)	...						7,260
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1931)	...	...					1,633
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1951 Census)...							2,091
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1956)	...	...					2,285
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE (1956)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.16
NUMBER OF HOUSES PER ACRE (1956)	...	...	...				0.03
NUMBER OF PERSONS PER ACRE (1956)	...	...					0.09
RATEABLE VALUE (at 1st April, 1957)	...	...	...				£90,803
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE (at 1st April, 1957)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£268

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## SOCIAL CONDITIONS, INCLUDING CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF INHABITANTS.

The social conditions of the District are reasonably satisfactory and the chief occupations of the inhabitants are :—

**Agriculture.**

**Manufacture of Textiles (Cotton and Artificial Silk).**

**Lime Stone Quarrying.**

**Brick manufacture.**

There is no unemployment in the District.

# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS — 1956.

<i>Live Births</i>						Male	Females	Total
(Legitimate)	...	...	...	...	...	45	58	103
(Illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
						46	59	105
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated home population...						Crude :		14.5
						Adjusted :		14.9
<i>Still Births</i>								
Legitimate...	...	...	...	...	...	0	2	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
						0	2	2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...								19
<i>Deaths (All Causes)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	59	42	101
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated home population ...						Crude :		13.9
						Adjusted :		14.5
<i>Deaths from Maternal Causes</i> ...								Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...								Nil
<i>Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age</i>								
Legitimate...	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	0
						2	0	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births								19
<i>Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age</i>						1	—	1
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...								10
<i>Deaths from Certain Specified Diseases</i>						Deaths	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	
Cancer (all forms) ...						15	2.07	
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...						Nil	Nil	

**TABLE SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF  
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1956.**

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other ... ..	—	1	1
Syphilitic disease ... ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough... ..	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ... ..	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	1	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	—	—	—
Diabetes ... ..	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	10	12	22
Coronary disease, angina ... ..	10	3	13
Hypertension with heart disease ... ..	—	—	—
Other heart disease ... ..	11	9	20
Other circulatory disease ... ..	5	4	9
Influenza ... ..	1	1	2
Pneumonia ... ..	1	1	2
Bronchitis ... ..	1	2	3
Other diseases of respiratory system ... ..	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea... ..	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	—	—	—
Congenital malformations ... ..	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	1	5
Motor vehicle accidents ... ..	—	—	—
All other accidents ... ..	2	—	2
Suicide ... ..	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war... ..	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES ...</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>101</b>

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956 AND THE PERIOD 1951—1955.

YEAR	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Still births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal	
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1956 ... ..	105	14.5*	101	13.9*	2	19	Nil.	Nil.	2	19	1	10
1955 ... ..	108	14.9	83	11.5	1	9	Nil.	Nil.	1	9	1	9
1954 ... ..	125	17.5	77	10.8	2	16	Nil.	Nil.	1	8	1	8
1953 ... ..	114	15.7	75	10.3	2	17	Nil.	Nil.	1	9	1	9
1952 ... ..	133	18.3	71	9.8	1	7	1	7.46	2	15	1	8
1951 ... ..	121	16.7	101	13.9	1	8	Nil.	Nil.	3	25	2	17
AVERAGE 5 yrs 1951-1955	—	16.6	—	11.3	—	10.4	—	1.5	—	13.2	—	10.2

\* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.03) = 14.9 per 1,000  
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.04) = 14.5 per 1,000

**SECTION B.**

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA.**





# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

## Ambulance Service

Lancaster Ambulance Station. Telephone Lancaster 3311.

## Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

No 12 Area Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council.  
Area Children's Officer : Miss F. M. Jay, B.A., 35A, China Street,  
Lancaster. Telephone 3020.

## Clinics.

### 1. CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

- (a) The Village Institute, Hornby : First Thursday of month, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (b) The Institute, Caton : First and Third Wednesday of month, 2 to 4 p.m.
- (c) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.

### 2. DENTAL.

- (a) Market Street, Carnforth : Every Thursday, by arrangement.
- (b) Thurnham House, Lancaster : Daily, by arrangement.

### 3. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

- (a) Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and small-pox can be provided free of charge at the Child Welfare Centres at Caton, Hornby and Carnforth : by arrangement as required.
- (b) The same service can also be provided free by the General Medical Practitioners in the area.

### 4. OPHTHALMIC.

Market Street, Carnforth : Alternate Wednesday mornings.

### 5. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Thurnham House, Lancaster : By arrangement.

### 6. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENTS.

Market Street, Carnforth : Friday mornings, 9-30—11-30 a.m.

## 7. SPEECH THERAPY.

Ryelands House, Lancaster : Tuesdays and Wednesdays, by appointment.

### **Convalescence**

Arrangements can be made through the Divisional Health Office, Regent Street, Lancaster, for the admission of children and adults to convalescent or recuperative homes. This service is not normally free of charge.

### **Health Visiting Service**

Full time nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire County Council to carry out duties as health visitors and school nurses.

### **Home Help Service**

Home Helps resident within the Lunesdale District are available to provide help in the home for persons who are incapacitated by illness, old age and infirmity, confinement, etc. Those who can afford to pay for this service are required to do so according to their means.

### **Home Nursing and Midwifery**

Full time nurse/midwives, who combine the duties of district nursing and domiciliary midwifery, are available within the District as follows :—

Caton : “ Milford,” Brookhouse Road, Telephone Caton 192.

Hornby : 2, Robin Croft, Gressingham, Telephone Hornby 307.

### **Laboratory Service**

Samples of water, milk and specimens in connection with infectious diseases are sent to the Pathology Department at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for bacteriological examination. Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst at Preston.

### **Mental Health Service**

Medical Officers and mental health workers on the Divisional Health staff are responsible for the ascertainment of mental defectives and for the supervision and training of those in the community. An Occupation Centre for the training of mentally defective children is available in Lancaster. The duly authorised officers are concerned also in securing the admission to hospital of those in urgent need of treatment for mental illness, and in their care after discharge from hospital.

## **Nursing Homes**

Caton Green Nursing Home, Caton. Telephone 134.

## **Welfare Services**

The following welfare services are provided by the Lancashire County Council and are administered by Divisional Health Committee No. 2.

### **(a) RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION**

For persons in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them, accommodation is provided at Bay View, Fair Elms and The Laurels at Lancaster; the Empress Hostel at Morecambe; Moor Platt and the Hermitage at Cator.

### **(b) TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**

In case of urgent need, *e.g.*, eviction, temporary accommodation is provided at Bay View, Lancaster.

### **(c) HANDICAPPED PERSONS**

For persons who are blind or deaf or otherwise substantially and permanently handicapped certain welfare provisions are made available either directly or through the agency of voluntary societies.



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.





# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1956.

Diseases	Total Cases	Age Period — Years											
		0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age Un-known
Scarlet Fever	6	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	24	—	7	—	2	5	8	1	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	52	—	7	4	4	5	27	5	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis : Non-paralytic ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection... ..	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total Cases..	88	1	15	4	6	11	38	8	2	1	2	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS—1956.

Age Groups.	New Cases Resident in Area.		Inward Transfer Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.	Respiratory	Other Forms.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
10— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
15— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
20— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
25— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
35— ...	—	—	—	—	—	1
45— ...	1	—	—	—	—	—
55— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
and Over...						
	1	—	—	—	—	1

## TOTAL INCIDENCE

Notifications of infectious diseases totalled 88 as against 65 in the previous year, most of this increase being due to a greater incidence of measles.

## SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA

Six cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with two last year.

Once again no cases of diphtheria occurred within the District. This disease has now become so rare that many younger parents are unable to appreciate the tragic results which might ensue in children who have not been immunised should virulent diphtheria re-appear in the community. Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor or at school clinics and child welfare services. It is imperative that the maximum number possible should be immunised in infancy, and it is desirable that older children should be maintained in a state of active immunity by means of re-inforcement injections. In the following tables the numbers of Lunesdale children immunised during the last five years are compared.

DIPHtheria immunisations performed — 1952 to 1956

Number of individuals who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the period.									
	Age at final injection								
Year	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	Total under 5 years	5-9	10-14	Total 5-14 years
1956	50	17	1	2	—	70	11	—	11
1955	74	34	12	1	3	124	19	2	21
1954	47	36	7	4	2	96	18	3	21
1953	40	37	4	3	2	86	21	2	23
1952	40	34	11	5	4	94	15	2	17
Number of individuals who were given a re-inforcement injection <i>i.e.</i> , subsequent to complete course									
	Age Group								
Year	0-4		5-9		10-14		Total under 15 years		
1956 ... ..	8		54		51		113		
1955 ... ..	13		83		28		124		
1954 ... ..	13		91		35		139		
1953 ... ..	12		105		29		146		
1952 ... ..	12		103		19		134		

MEASLES AND WHOOPING-COUGH

Fifty-two cases of measles and 24 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year, as compared with 32 and 20 cases respectively for 1955. The efficacy of whooping cough vaccine is now well recognised and a combined diphtheria-whooping cough vaccine which confers a high degree of immunity against both diseases is now being increasingly used. More recently still a triple vaccine to give protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus simultaneously has come into use, its chief advantage being the reduced number of injections necessary for the individual child.

GASTRO-INTESTINAL INFECTIONS

It is satisfactory to be able to report that no cases of food poisoning or dysentery occurred during 1956 but one case of paratyphoid fever was notified.

## **POLIOMYELITIS**

One case of acute poliomyelitis occurred in a child aged 8 but paralysis did not develop and recovery was complete.

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

As in the previous year there were no deaths from respiratory tuberculosis but in 1956 one death occurred from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Mortality from all forms of tuberculosis continues to decline throughout the country as a whole, particularly within the last decade.

As regards the incidence of respiratory tuberculosis only one new case was notified during 1956.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF THE AREA.





## WATER SUPPLY.

With the exception of remote and high-lying farms in the Quernmore and Tatham parts of the area, the District can be said to be reasonably served with water from the Council's mains.

The Thirlmere Aqueduct of the Manchester Corporation passes through the district from North to South and the new Haweswater Aqueduct is still in course of construction further to the east. At the present time, no water is drawn from the latter pipe-line.

The bulk of the water supplied in the district is obtained from the Thirlmere Aqueduct by means of four main connections and one subsidiary connection. These connections are as follows :—

- (a) **Regional Scheme** : Serving the villages and farms in and around Arkholme, Whittington, Aughton, Gressingham, Mellington, Cantsfield, Burrow, Leck, Ireby, Wennington and a portion of the Tatham Parish.
- (b) **Borwick** : Used for supplying that portion of the district and then passes into the Lancaster Rural District to serve parishes adjoining.
- (c) **Nether Kellet and Over Kellet.**
- (d) **Halton**

The subsidiary connection is only brought into use in times of emergency to supply houses in part of the parish of Caton.

Two other schemes are also in operation in the area and are under the direct management of the Council. These are known locally as the Hornby Castle Scheme and the Caton Scheme.

The Hornby Castle supply, installed by the Owners of the Castle Estate many years ago, to serve properties on the Estate, was purchased by the Council in 1938 when the estate was sold. The water is taken from the River Roeburn, is treated by passing it through settling tanks, slow sand filters and chlorinated prior to storage. Before leaving the works the water passes through a carbon filter for dechlorination and since its installation in 1948, this filter has proved to be most effective.

The Caton scheme was provided by a private company some 70-75 years ago to give a mains supply to properties in Brookhouse and Caton and the works were purchased by the Council in 1905. Water for this scheme is obtained from two intakes on a stream known

as "Traitors' Gill" and one from Tarn Brook. After passing through a rough gravel filter, the water is stored in an open reservoir capable of holding approximately 1,000,000 gallons and on leaving the reservoir a Hypo-chlorinator is brought into use on the mains to treat the water.

Properties around the Temperance Hotel, Quernmore, 12 in all, are provided with a piped water supply from the Lancaster City mains passing the houses. This water is untreated, but a small number of other properties in the same parish and also in Halton are supplied from the City's mains with a treated supply. A small number of houses in the parish of Over Kellet are also supplied by the Lancaster City Water Department. These obtain water from the reservoir serving the Carnforth area.

Three houses and one farm in the high-lying portion of Whittington are supplied from mains of the South Westmorland Rural District Council under a scheme carried out in conjunction with the Agricultural Executive Committee.

Two other sources of supply have also been in use for a long period providing water to properties in the Farleton and Claughton parts of the District. These are private schemes and the water provided has given cause for concern for many years. Nearly 50 houses and farms are involved in these supplies and the Council commenced the laying of some 4,600 yards of 6in. and 500 yards of 2in. asbestos cement mains to these properties during 1955. The extension of the mains is from the Hornby Castle supply and house connections were made as the work progressed. At the end of the year, thirteen houses had been connected to the new supply and negotiations were in progress for almost the whole of the remaining properties to be connected.

Extensions from existing mains have been made for new properties in several parts of the district and approximately 700 yards of 6in. pipe were laid to inter-connect the Regional Scheme with the Hornby Castle supply for emergency purposes, with the result that the Regional Scheme can now supply Hornby should the need arise.

In the table below, an estimate is given of the supplies to properties in the various parishes in the district and the population served at the end of the year.

## Water Supplies to Houses in the District:

Parish	From Public Mains		Private Supplies	
	Direct to Houses	Population Served	No. of Houses.	Population Served
Arkholme-with-Cawood ...	56	165	25	85
Borwick ... ..	41	115	6	20
Burrow-with-Burrow ...	45	126	8	23
Cantsfield ... ..	22	74	1	7
Caton-with-Littledale ...	447	1,358	49	152
Claughton ... ..	8	30	33	71
Gressingham ... ..	50	123	2	8
Halton-with-Aughton ...	350	1,144	7	21
Hornby-with-Farleton ...	149	430	8	22
Ireby ... ..	15	51	6	19
Nether Kellet ... ..	79	259	3	8
Over Kellet ... ..	125	390	20	75
Leck ... ..	50	154	10	30
Melling-with-Wrayton ...	65	211	—	—
Quernmore ... ..	83	281	94	324
Roeburndale ... ..	—	—	21	80
Tatham ... ..	51	167	68	243
Tunstall ... ..	25	73	5	14
Wennington ... ..	44	140	1	4
Whittington ... ..	77	232	22	67
Wray-with-Botton ... ..	120	371	27	110
Total Whole District ...	1,902	5,894	416	1,383

## Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies

The routine examination of all water supplies is a most effective measure for the protection of the general public and samples of water from various sources are regularly obtained for bacteriological analysis. The specimens are delivered to the Pathological Laboratory at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary and the results of the analyses of samples during 1956 are given below:—

### *Raw Water.*

Number of specimens submitted ... ..	23
Number found to be satisfactory ... ..	17
Number found to be unsatisfactory ... ..	6

### *Treated Water.*

Number of specimens submitted ... ..	15
Number found to be satisfactory ... ..	15



Owners of private supplies are notified of the results of the examinations and advised as to possible sources of contamination and the action deemed necessary to clear up any pollution. On the unsatisfactory report of any public supply, mains are flushed and the chlorine dosage increased to overcome the difficulty.

### **Chemical Examination**

Samples of water for chemical examination are delivered to the County Analyst, Dr. Walker, at his Preston Laboratory.

Two such specimens from public supplies, after treatment, were submitted for his report in 1956 and both were reported upon as satisfactory.

## **SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

In reports over the past few years it has been stressed that in many parts of the district, facilities for sewerage and the treatment of sewage were totally inadequate and insufficient to meet present-day requirements, and that the provision of new sewers and treatment works for the safe removal and competent disposal of this type of domestic waste was an urgent and important necessity.

In this connection, it is pleasing to report that engineering works of this nature were completed during the year in the villages of Nether Kellet and Over Kellet, and considerable progress had been made by the end of the year in the construction of a new treatment works and pumping stations to serve the village of Halton. Work was also progressing, if somewhat slowly, with the new sewers and treatment plant for the villages of Caton and Brookhouse. This scheme provides for the linking up of the sewers in the two villages and the construction of a single disposal works to deal with the sewage from both villages thereby eliminating five small tanks which are at present in use in that part of the district.

Details were being prepared, at the end of the year, of a scheme for the provision of works of this nature for the village of Hornby and it was hoped that the Ministry would be in a position to have an enquiry into the proposals. Such an enquiry was, in fact, held early in 1957.

In other smaller villages the various treatment plants, where sewers are available, have become grossly overloaded during the past few years as the tanks were not designed to cope with such modern amenities as baths and water closets. Where the sewers discharge direct into rivers or streams without any prior treatment of the sewage,

serious complaints are received from adjoining owners, tenants and the Lancashire River Board Inspectors. These complaints can only be eliminated by the provision of modern disposal works to serve centres of population throughout the area.

More isolated premises such as farms, etc., are now being provided with modern sanitation and the maintenance of these individual treatment tanks creates a problem in all areas. Requests for assistance are frequent from individual owners but unfortunately the Council have neither the staff nor financial resources to provide a service of this kind and private builders are having difficulty in obtaining the labour to carry out the work.

In the villages of Nether Kellet and Over Kellet, whilst the sewers were being laid, house connections were made available to owners and at the end of the year quite a number of properties had been connected to the sewers, fresh water closets had been provided and work was still in progress at many of the remaining houses. Much of this latter work has been accomplished by informal approach being made to the owners and it is anticipated that very few, if any, formal notices will need to be served in this respect.

No sewers are available in the majority of the smaller villages in the district, details of which have been enumerated in previous annual reports and it is not proposed to set out these facts again in this report. Members of the Council are only too well aware of this information but it is felt that this question cannot be brought before the Council too often so that further schemes can be considered as early as possible even in view of the present financial difficulties.

**SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.**

Details are given below of the estimated number and type of sanitary accommodation provided at properties in the district at the end of the year :

No. of Pail Closets	...	60	No. of Ashbins	...	...	2,591
No. of Privy Middens...	532		No. of Closets attached	...	570	
No of Houses on Water			No. of Fresh Water Closets		1,825	
Carriage System	...	1,511				

**Conversions during 1956 :**

No. of Privy Closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	35
No. of Pail Closets to Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	9
No. of Fixed Receptacles to Moveable Ashbins	...	...	...	...	65



The provision of the new sewage schemes already mentioned will enable the conversion of a number of old privy middens and pail closets to fresh water closets during the coming year but little progress can be expected in other villages without such works. At properties away from the villages and possible sewerage schemes, an approved type, two-chamber septic tank, based on the Ministry's recommendations is being suggested. Where these have been installed, treatment appears to be reasonably satisfactory.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

The effects of the re-organisation of the collection service at the end of 1955 were not apparent until the end of February, one of the vehicles being taken off the road for overhaul. Once this was replaced, improvement was quickly noticeable and most households in the district are now receiving a regular collection once every 10 or 12 days. More outlying farms and other properties are now being regularly visited.

Three vehicles and six workmen are employed on this work and, in addition, a seventh man is employed who acts as foreman and carries out work on the Council's Rodent Service.

For the year ending December, 1956, refuse was collected from 71,640 ashbins and 3,565 pails and privies were emptied; the vehicles travelling 22,981 miles on this work. As was to be expected these figures show an increase on previous years, owing to the re-organisation of the work to cover the more outlying parts of the district and the construction of new houses.

Very few complaints regarding spillage from the vehicles following the cleansing of privies and pails have been received and this nuisance will diminish as these obsolete types of convenience are converted.

The refuse tip at Timpenny Quarry is still in use, the great bulk of the material being dealt with on this site but in an effort to cut down running costs and save a certain amount of time, an old tip site in a small quarry at Whittington has been opened and a much shorter haul is now being made with refuse from the northern part of the area.

The salvage of waste paper, rags, metals, etc., was continued and the bonus scheme for the workmen extended to cover rags and metals.



The amount of material collected during the year has justified the cost of this scheme so far as revenue is concerned. The receipts and weight of materials salvaged are given below :

	Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ... ..	28	11	3	0	185	16	5
Rags ... ..	1	12	0	5	37	6	3
Woollens ... ..	0	2	2	22	19	8	10
Brass, Copper, etc. ... ..	1	5	2	27	41	8	0
	31	12	0	24	£273	19	6

### HOUSING

The building of new houses, both by private individuals and the Council has again continued, 33 new properties being completed by private owners and 4 on behalf of the Council. Work was in progress on a number of sites and the Council had 4 houses under construction on a site at Caton and tenders were being prepared for a further 20 houses at Caton, 4 of these being for old people’s bungalows.

Speculative building appears to be confined to two sites in the district, one at Halton and the other at Caton. The builders on these sites make much better progress than those working on Council sites.

Development by private individuals is somewhat difficult, owners of suitable sites in or around the villages are very reluctant to dispose of even small portions of their holdings for building purposes.

Following a review of outstanding applications for Council house tenancies, it was found that there still remained 135 live applications on the list, over 100 of these being for houses in Caton or Halton.

The older houses in the area are of stone construction with slate or stone slab roofs. Many of these lack modern amenities such as baths, hot water supplies and water closets but the main fabric of the properties is generally good. More recently constructed houses have usually been built in brick which has been rendered in cement or rough-cast to conform to local conditions. As can only be expected, dampness is evident in most of the older houses but the provision of an adequate damp-proof course in the random rubble walls would be a very difficult undertaking. The rent of many of these older type properties is, in many cases, very low, and with the present high cost

of building material and labour, owners of houses must be faced with considerable difficulty financially. This problem may be eased somewhat with the coming into operation of the new Rent Act but there is no doubt that many tenants will object to a large increase in the rent of their houses and this may lead to a spate of applications for "Certificates of Disrepair" under the Act. Where, however, owners are approached to carry out repairs, very little difficulty has been met and no formal action required.

The provisions of the Housing Acts regarding Improvement Grants are brought to the notice of owners when repairs are requested so that they can, if they wish, submit schemes for improvement whilst the repairs are in progress.

The policy of the Council regarding "Grants" was the subject of considerable discussion towards the end of the year and it was ultimately decided to continue the making of grants on the basis of 40% on £400 as a maximum on existing houses, but where the conversion of a building was planned to form an additional unit of accommodation then a further 25% grant would be given on the next £400 so that where £800 or over is being spent on a new unit, the maximum grant would be £260. A sub-committee was appointed to consider each individual application and their decision reported to the Public Health Committee for confirmation.

Applications for grant aid were received from the owners of 27 properties during the year and all were approved by the Council. At the end of the year, 18 schemes had been completed, one of these being the formation of a new unit of accommodation adapted from existing buildings adjoining one of the farms in the area. The estimated costs eligible for grant on these 18 houses involved the payment of just over £3,000 or slightly over £170 per house but a considerable amount of money was spent by owners on general repairs to many of these houses to have them conform to modern requirements. Work is still in progress on a number of properties where these improvements are being carried out and it is felt that the time spent by your officers in this connection is well worth while.

Three cottages which have been unoccupied for some considerable time following the serving of demolition orders were finally demolished during the year and the owners of two houses have given undertakings under Section 11 of the Act not to re-let their properties when they are vacated by the present tenants.

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES.

No. of Premises inspected during the year ... ..	167
No. of Visits made for the purpose ... ..	223
No. of Houses found unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit ... ..	3
No. of Premises found not in all respects reasonably fit ... ..	94
No. of Premises rendered fit by informal action... ..	31
No. of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	7
No. of Houses demolished ... ..	3

## SHOPS ACTS.

Almost the whole of the shops in the area are small semi-domestic businesses where the employees are members of the proprietor's family. There are 45 such premises in the district and all are regularly visited. No action has been necessary for infringements under the Shops Act or Public Health Act at any of these premises.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

### (a) Meat Inspection.

The two licensed slaughter-houses in the district are situated in the village of Caton. In the latter half of the year one of these slaughter-houses was taken over by a butcher who has developed a fairly large wholesale as well as retail trade and animals are slaughtered at these premises almost daily. An effort has been made to inspect all the carcasses of the slaughtered animals and this involved the making of 252 visits. Set out below are details of the number of animals slaughtered and examined and particulars are given of the meat found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption.



## Number of Animals Slaughtered and Examined.

	Cattle exclu'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	137	77	1	914	17
Number inspected ... ..	137	77	1	914	17
All diseases except Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci :—					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	31	23	Nil	63	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and Cysticerci ...	24	30	Nil	7	Nil
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned..	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned..	12	9	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	9	12	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cysticercosis ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

## Particulars of Meat Condemned.

### *All diseases except Tuberculosis:—*

Head and Tongue ... ..	1 heifer	)	
Livers : Heifer ... ..	28	)	
Cow ... ..	22	)	
Sheep ... ..	57	)	Total weight 981½lbs.
Lungs : Heifer ... ..	2	)	
Sheep ... ..	2	)	
Hearts ... ..	1	)	
Forequarters : Cow... ..	1	)	
Sheep ... ..	3	)	

### *Tuberculosis Only:—*

Carcase of Heifer		)	
Heads : Heifers ... ..	5	)	
Cows ... ..	1	)	
Livers : Heifers ... ..	2	)	Total weight 647lbs.
Cows ... ..	1	)	
Lungs : Heifers ... ..	7	)	
Cows ... ..	7	)	

## **(b) Other Foodstuffs.**

Food-preparing premises and shops are regularly visited and as these are mostly small family businesses, the general standard of cleanliness is very high and greater care is taken in the handling of foodstuffs in this type of business than in larger premises. Very few difficulties have been met in the operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, and where improvements have been suggested, these have, invariably, been carried out with very little delay. All proprietors of premises coming within the scope of the Regulations were informed of the new requirements and any problems discussed during the subsequent inspection of the premises.

## **MILK AND DAIRIES.**

The great bulk of the milk produced in the area is removed to several large dairies outside the district where it is either pasteurised before re-sale or used in the manufacture of cheese or condensed milk.

Milk sold in the area for local consumption comes from farms with either Accredited or T.T. herds but Pasteurised Milk is also distributed in some parts of the district and also to most schools in the area. There is no pasteurising plant in the district and retailers obtain their supplies from wholesalers in Lancaster to whom all dirty bottles are returned for cleansing and sterilising.

Five schools in the district obtain milk from farmers in the vicinity of the schools; this milk is not heat treated but the herds are all tuberculin tested. Samples of school milk are obtained quarterly by the members of the County Medical Officer of Health's staff and examination of this milk is made at the County Laboratory, Preston.

Samples of milk sold by retail are obtained from time to time for examination by the staff of the Pathology Department of the Royal Lancaster Infirmary and all the 18 samples of raw milk and 2 specimens of pasteurised milk were reported upon as satisfactory during the year.

## **SCHOOLS.**

The 15 schools in the district are visited from time to time and no significant improvements were carried out during the year. None of the schools are of recent construction and modern amenities such as hot water supplies, washing facilities and sanitary accommodation

are far from satisfactory. The Education Authority are responsible for the maintenance of some of these buildings whilst others are under the control of local management committees who have to obtain the sanction of the Divisional Educational Executive Committee before improvements are carried out.

Schemes for improvement were under consideration at several schools at the end of the year. The main features of these were the conversion of pail closets to fresh water closets at both Nether Kellet and Over Kellet following the provision of the new sewage schemes, and alterations to the Quernmore School were also planned. The improvements follow recommendations made to the Managers or the Executive Committee some time ago and it is hoped that the work will proceed with as little delay as possible.

### **RODENT CONTROL.**

Following consultations with the Infestation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Council decided to appoint a Rodent Operator at the beginning of the year. His duties were to combine the office of Foreman over the Refuse Collection Service and work under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act. One of the Council's workmen had already had considerable experience in this field having been employed previously by the Agricultural Executive Committee as a rodent operator and the scheme was brought into operation in February.

The inspection of farms and business premises were primarily concentrated upon and a number of contracts were entered into for the treatment of these premises. The service is now becoming established although at the end of the year only 19 Contracts were in being.

Servicing contracts are still being renewed and negotiated by the Agricultural Executive Committee and there is also a private operator in the district who has a number of contracts with farmers to treat their premises.

Sewers in the area are treated twice each year to comply with the requirements of the Ministry and the Council's refuse tips are kept under strict observation and treatment carried out whenever necessary.

Private houses are given free treatment when necessary but charges are made on a time and material basis for all other premises such as farms, businesses, etc.



Details are given below of the work carried out under the Act :

TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Agri-cultural	Non-Agricultural	
		Dwelling Houses	All Other
No. of properties inspected ... ..	430	426	218
Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) ... ..	695	547	264
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—			
Rats : major ... ..	6	Nil	2
minor ... ..	48	25	26
Mice : major ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
minor ... ..	12	18	5
No. of infested properties treated ...	34	43	28
Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) ... ..	102	121	116
No. of “Block” control schemes carried out ... ..	Nil	6	Nil

### Sewer Treatment.

Total number of manholes baited ... ..	245
No. of manholes showing prebait take ... ..	143
No. of manholes showing complete prebait take (one or both days)	52
No. of manholes showing complete poison take ... ..	38
No. of manholes showing part poison take ... ..	45

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Seventy-six visits were paid to the 52 premises on the register during the year and only in two instances was it necessary to draw attention to requirements under the Acts. These were in connection with the ventilation of the sanitary conveniences at one of the works in the area and a defective w.c. Both these complaints were remedied with very little delay.







